

# Interest will determine development plans' future

By Lisa Broman

If enough interest is generated by a random sampling of UNL students, a program could be instituted at UNL to help students while in college and increase their chances of getting a job.

The survey, conducted by John Baier, UNL's Acting Dean of Student Development and Robert Brown, UNL psychology professor, has been sent to 1,400 randomly selected students. The survey's intention is to find out students' opinions on a Personal Development Record to be attached to their grade transcript upon graduation.

The development record would include such things as evidence of personal growth, interpersonal skills, leadership skills and cultural awareness.

"Very few people know just what employers ask for in references. What they ask for is basically what we will be giving them in a transcript such as this," Baier said.

"If we are able to provide information such as this it might, in the long run, bias employers to University of Nebraska graduates, and it may even force a trend that will force other institutions to follow a similar program," he said.

Besides the transcript, the questionnaire also asks if students would be interested in a personal development advising program where students would have individual contact with a student affairs administrator, staff member or other interested university faculty members.

The survey tries to find out if students would be in favor of such a program and then attempts to establish a popular form by suggesting possibilities.

"My own personal bias for the form of the program to take, if there is enough interest, would be for each student to be randomly matched with a member of the staff and be required to meet with him at least once. After the first meeting, it would be up to the two people involved to decide on further meetings, if any were desired," Baier said.

Generally, he said there would be one meeting per semester plus any other meetings individual students desired.

"This would be a chance for students to have someone on campus that would care for him and be available to talk to him," he said.

"This system would be very flexible, as we would emphasize different things to different students. We don't want a person to major in activities, but we think that there is more to the college experience than whether someone receives an A in Chemistry," he said.

If the survey reaction is positive, the program would be instituted this fall on a trial basis.

"Since the program would be totally volunteer, it would add no extra cost and the time involved for the individual staffer would be no greater than three to four hours per week."

"Of course it would have to be institutionalized into the system so that staffers would give the time needed to it and that is the purpose of trial and error, to see if it will work," he said.

"The important thing is that we get the highest percentage of surveys back, because of the small sample size," he said.

The system should not be instituted if it is not wanted, so he said he hopes both those who favor the program and those who do not favor the program reply.

# ASUN gets second try to improve education at UNL

By Dawn Baxter

Plans to initiate an active Student Advisory Panel to the Teaching and Learning Center have been dropped in favor of letting the newly elected ASUN work for undergraduate education improvement.

UNL senior Don Wesely, one of those who started the idea of such a panel, said he thinks last year's ASUN didn't "give a damn about the quality of education at UNL."

He said he tried to make last year's ASUN aware of the problems with undergraduate education, but got nowhere.

"Since ASUN didn't care, a group of students and myself decided to form a panel outside of student government first semester. We talked to Gene Harding, director of the Teaching and Learning Center, and we set up a panel," Wesely said.

However, Wesely said, when the students came back to school after Christmas break, it was difficult to pick up on ideas.

"I decided that I'd spent my time working for better education in the long run. I thought ASUN president Greg Johnson and the SUN party would work for improvement of education and I supported them," Wesely said.

Good idea

Harding said students talked to him

about forming a panel and he said he thought it was a good idea.

"There's never been any special hold-up in getting it active. I guess the students were just too busy for it," Harding said.

Ken Havelka, another student on the panel, said it was started to give students input on educational topics and ways that education could be improved.

"We were an advisory group, rather than an action group. ASUN should have been doing the action," Havelka said.

He added that after talking to Harding, he did not think there was a lot the panel could do.

Too busy

"The intentions were good, but we were all very active in other things and didn't have enough time," Havelka said.

Because of his desire for improved education, Havelka said, he supported Johnson in his campaign for the ASUN presidency.

Johnson said he has several plans for improving the educational quality at UNL.

There are plans for a university-wide evaluation of teachers done completely by students.

Presently, the only teacher evaluations given to students are those distributed by the individual departments.

According to Johnson, constructive

positive and negative comments regarding each teacher and course would be published and distributed to students before registration, so students could get the best personal education program.

Johnson said he also plans meetings with representatives from each advisory board every other week to get ASUN

coordinated with each department.

He said he wants to lend support to unconventional educational programs such as ADAPT, Centennial and University Studies.

"The university must realize that it could provide educational alternatives to the regular class schedule," Johnson said.

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